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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00
CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12 NSAE-00 PA-01
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S E C R E T USNATO 05423

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, NAC, PORG, TU
SUBJECT: TURKISH POSITION ON ALLIANCE EAST-WEST STUDY, COMMUNIQUE AND LTDP

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH TURKISH DCM BALKAR ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, CHARGE NOTED HIGH-LEVEL US INTEREST IN ISSUING ALLIANCE EAST-WEST STUDY PUBLIC STATEMENT. BALKAR NOTING ESSENTIALLY NEGATIVE TURKISH POSITION IN SPC DISCUSSIONS SAID SUBJECT HAD NOT YET BEEN BROUGHT TO ECEVIT'S ATTENTION AND THAT HE EXPECTED TO SEE TURKISH PRIME MINISTER ON THIS AND ALL OTHER SUMMIT ISSUES MID-AFTERNOON MAY 26. CHARGE THEN REHEARSED US VIEWS ON EAST-WEST STUDY PUBLIC STATEMENT, URGING TURKISH FLEXIBILITY. BALKAR APPEARED RECEPTIVE AND PROMISED TO BRING OUR VIEWS TO ECEVIT'S ATTENTION.

2. WITH REGARD TO COMMUNIQUE, BALKAR SAID HE PERSONALLY AND OFFICIALLY FELT VERY STRONGLY THAT PARA 14 (WHICH DEALS WITH LIFTING OF EMBARGO) WAS MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF COMMUNIQUE FOR TURKEY. HE SAID THAT BOTH US AND TURKEY WERE NOW OFFICIALLY IN FAVOR OF LIFTING THE EMBARGO
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AND THE TURKS COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY GREECE SHOULD BE OPPOSED TO A REFERENCE TO THIS POINT IN THE COMMUNIQUE.

3. CHARGE DREW ON PREVIOUS GUIDANCE TO OUTLINE US POSITION AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT COMPROMISE FORMULA COULD BE FOUND. BALKAR SAID TURKS WOULD BE ADAMANT ON THIS POINT BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED FAILURE TO MENTION EFFORT TO

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LIFT EMBARGO IN COMMUNIQUE WOULD BE SEEN BY NATO PUBLICS, AND US CONGRESS IN PARTICULAR, AS SIGN OF LACK OF ALLIANCE SUPPORT FOR THIS MEASURE.

4. CHARGE, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, SAID HE COULD RECOGNIZE THAT MENTION OF LIFTING OF EMBARGO IN COMMUNIQUE COULD HELP MARGINALLY BUT HE PERSONALLY DID NOT BELIEVE THAT FAILURE TO MENTION LIFTING OF EMBARGO WOULD HAVE A SIGNIFICANT NEGATIVE IMPACT. CHARGE ARGUED PERSONALLY THAT IMPACT ECEVIT MAKES IN HIS MEETINGS WITH US CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS, PRESS AND PUBLIC WAS FAR MORE IMPORTANT IN TERMS OF ACHIEVING OUR COMMON GOAL OF LIFTING EMBARGO THEN WHETHER, OR WITH WHAT DEGREE OF INTENSITY, ITEM WAS REFERRED TO IN COMMUNIQUE. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE EMPHASIZED CLEAR PSYCHOLOGICAL PREFERENCE IN US FOR STATEMENTS WHICH EMPHASIZE POSITIVE AND FLEXIBLE POSITIONS FAND CITED SADAT AS AN EXAMPLE.

5. BALKAR RAISED QUESTION OF TURKISH RESERVATIONS ON LTDP, SAYING HE EXPECTED THIS ISSUE WOULD ALSO BE DISCUSSED WITH ECEVIT IN DETAIL FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS AFTERNOON. HE SAID TURKISH OFFICIALS DID NOT SEE HOW THEIR PRIME MINISTER COULD COMMIT HIMSELF TO THE PROGRAM WITHOUT RESERVATIONS CONCERNING LIFTING OF EMBARGO AND IMPROVED ALLIED ASSISTANCE. IN RESPONSE TO CHARGE'S POINTS, BALKAR SAID CONSTITUTIONAL/POLITICAL

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SITUATION IN TURKEY DIFFERED FROM OTHER COUNTRIES IN THAT THERE WAS LITTLE OPPOSITION TO STRONG DEFENSE MEASURES IN TURKISH PARLIAMENT AND PRIME MINISTER'S COMMITMENT TO LTDP, EVEN IF IN PRINCIPLE, WOULD BE SEEN AS POLITICALLY BINDING. ACCORDINGLY, GIVEN UNCERTAINTIES RE EMBARGO AND ALLIED ASSISTANCE, HE BELIEVED ECEVIT WOULD HAVE TO STICK WITH TURKISH RESERVATION.

6. CHARGE, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, NOTED THAT TURKISH RESERVATION CARRIED WITH IT NEGATIVE IMPLICATION THAT TURKS EXPECTED EFFORT TO LIFT EMBARGO WOULD FAIL, AND THAT THEY WOULD FAIL TO OBTAIN INCREASED ALLIANCE ASSISTANCE. HE WONDERED WHETHER THIS MIGHT NOT HAVE AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON EFFORTS TO OBTAIN REMOVAL OF EMBARGO BY GIVING A NEGATIVE SIGNAL. HE WONDERED WHETHER A MORE POSITIVE APPROACH -- E.G., A PUBLIC STATEMENT BY TURKISH SPOKESMAN TO THE EFFECT THAT TURKEY CAN ACCEPT LTDP COMMITMENTS IN PRINCIPLE BECAUSE IT IS CONFIDENT ITS ALLIES UNDERSTAND ITS ECONOMIC SITUATION AND NEED FOR INCREASED ARMS PROCUREMENT -- MIGHT NOT PROVIDE BETTER SIGNAL WHILE STILL LEAVING AN OUT

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EQUIVALENT TO THE "IN PRINCIPLE" POSITION OF OTHERS, SHOULD THINGS NOT GO AS HOPED. BALKAR SAID HE HAD NOT CONSIDERED THIS POINT BEFORE AND FELT IT MIGHT CARRY SOME WEIGHT WITH ECEVIT. GLITMAN

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